

NEWS RELEASE

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RANTOUL MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 16, 2007, **JAMES E. WARE**, a/k/a “**Fuzzo**,” age 28, of Rantoul, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. **WARE**, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute more than 5 grams of crack cocaine, was sentenced to 262 months imprisonment, 8 years’ supervised release and was fined \$300.

The violation took place between April 2004, and May 11, 2005, in Carbondale, Illinois. According to the factual basis filed at the time of the guilty plea, **WARE** and others were transporting cocaine and crack cocaine from Chicago to Carbondale for distribution. Two co-defendants have previously received prison terms of 262 months and 240 months, respectively, for their roles in the drug conspiracy.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Carbondale Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.